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A SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON THE REGIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGY  
AND PARASITOLOGY OF SIBERIA

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A scientific conference on the regional epidemiology and parasitology of Siberia took place at Omsk from 25-29 January 1954.

Representatives of scientific research institutes, of some medical institutes, and of scientific-practical institutions participated in the conference. This included sanitary-epidemiological, antibrucellosis, antitularaemia, and antimalaria stations of Siberia and the Far East. The scientific institutions of Omsk, Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Barnaul, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk, Biysk, Tyumen', Sverdlovsk, Ufa, Tula, Chita, Molotov, Moscow, and other cities were represented.

The conference was opened by G. V. Kornilova, Candidate of Medical Sciences and director of the Omsk Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene. In her introductory address, Kornilova emphasized the significance of scientific research work and of antiepidemic measures for the control of some regional infectious diseases, which occur in Siberia. She stated that the scientific institutions of Siberia are faced with important tasks pertaining to the elimination of natural reservoirs of transmittible diseases which have been discovered by Soviet scientists. She called upon the conference to do effective work, which will conform to the decisions of the 19th Congress of the CPSU and the September Plenary Session of the Central Committee of CPSU.

G. I. Netskiy, Candidate of Biological Sciences, presented an introductory report on the results and further tasks pertaining to the study of the regional epidemiology and parasitology of Omsk Oblast, and Western Siberia. Netskiy presented extensive material on the state of the investigation of regional epidemiology and parasitology of Omsk Oblast. He declared that the problems of regional epidemiology and parasitology encountered in Omsk Oblast, for the most part, apply to the whole of Western Siberia.

As far as individual infectious diseases are concerned, Netskiy stated that malaria as a mass disease has been eliminated in Omsk Oblast. He further stated that the fight with helminthiases has been expanded greatly and that it is, at present, one of the main tasks of the organs of public health. He added that the scientific research institutes must aid practical public health activities by studying the foci from which helminths are transmitted by carriers and by investigating measures for the liquidation of these foci.

Referring to tularemia, Omsk hemorrhagic fever, tick encephalitis, tick rickettsiosis, and brucellosis, Netskiy mentioned the sharp reduction of the incidence of these diseases achieved in Siberia during 1945-1952. Netskiy discussed in detail the immediate tasks connected with further investigation of these diseases, and their control and elimination.

Great interest was elicited by the following reports given by V. M. Popov (Tomsk Scientific Research Institute of Vaccines and Sera) on the ecology of Ixodes persulcatus ticks under the conditions of the tayga zone of Western Siberia; by G. I. Getta (Siberian Zonal Scientific Research Veterinary Institute, Omsk) on the distribution of Ixodes ticks in connection with the hemosporidiosis situation in Siberia; by V. I. Alifanov (Omsk Oblast Antitularaemia Station) on Gamasiidae mites of the Omsk Oblast; and by K. M. Rastegayev (Omsk Agricultural Institute) on the gadflies of the northern regions of Omsk Oblast.

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Those who presented the reports demonstrated important achievements in the investigation of the fauna, geography, and ecology of blood-sucking arthropods, which function as vectors of all transmittible human diseases. In the reports in question, the importance and timeliness of the further study of these arthropods for the successful control of many regional diseases of Siberia was shown.

Professor A. V. Pshenichnov and his collaborators, O. N. Petrova and Ye. G. Noskova (Molotov Virological Laboratory and the Molotov Medical Institute), told about their very interesting and original, as far as the methods that were applied are concerned, investigations on the cultivation of rickettsiae in synthetic media. The work done by these investigators opens up the prospect of obtaining a live typhus vaccine. Pshenichnov also demonstrated outstanding achievements in work on problems dealing with the prophylaxis of typhus and other rickettsioses.

Furthermore, Pshenichnov infected white mice with the virus of tick encephalitis introduced by subcutaneous injection into tumors, which resulted in a prolonged infection in these mice. After the infection with the virus there was a suppression of the neoplastic activity of the tumors in the sense that the tumors were stabilized, as far as their growth was concerned; they showed regression; and in individual cases, they were resorbed. The tumors in question were Crocker sarcomas.

By introducing killed cultures of *Bacillus prodigiosus* or *Bacillus pyocyaneus* (into the tumors), Pshenichnov achieved a still greater therapeutic effect on malignant tumors, which were then resorbed entirely.

The conference heard with great attention the interesting reports given by Professor M. K. Krontovskaya, Head of the Division of Rickettsioses, Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology imeni N. F. Gamaleya, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. Krontovskaya's reports dealt with rickettsiae and rickettsioses. She told about her investigations in the field of rickettsioses, which involved collection of data dealing with morphology, antigen structure, immunogenic characteristics, and resistance. The investigations led to the creation of a prophylactic vaccine against typhus. Krontovskaya furthermore gave an analysis of the various classifications of rickettsioses which have been proposed and discussed the problem of the elimination of these diseases in the USSR.

A. N. Gudoshnik (Omsk Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene) presented data obtained in the investigation of the role of *Ixodes* ticks in the circulation of the causative factor of brucellosis. These data were regarded by the participants at the meeting as of great importance for science and epidemiological practice.

The reports by Yu. A. Myasnikov and O. V. Ravdonikas (Tula and Omsk Antitularemia Stations), P. A. Zykina (Altayskiy Krai Antitularemia Station), V. M. Popov (Tomsk Antitularemia Station), and Baranova (Omsk Antitularemia Station) dealt with the problem of tularemia. Those who presented the reports told about signal successes achieved in the investigation of this infection and in its control in Siberia. In addition, Myasnikov and Ravdonikas demonstrated their system for the classification of tularemia, which was received very favorably by the specialists who discussed the subject at the conference.

A. V. Gagarin, Candidate of Medical Sciences, (Omsk Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene) presented extensive data on the epidemiological and virological characteristics of a natural focus of the Omsk hemorrhagic fever. The epidemiological studies carried out on persons recovered from hemorrhagic fever and on those inoculated with Professor Chumakov's vaccine, as well as the experimental investigation of the problem involved, indicated the development of a stable and prolonged immunity against this infection. It was established that specific virucidal antibodies are retained for 8 years in persons who have

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recovered from the disease and that the titer of these antibodies remains high. Observations were carried out over an 8 year period.

T. F. Lebedeva, L. I. Rod'kina, and K. M. Vinogradova (Omsk Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene) presented data on the investigation of the duration and intensity of immunological reactions following immunization with a dry, live antitularia vaccine. These investigators studied the hematological aspects, and the immunological and allergic reactions in human beings, as well as the age characteristics of the susceptibility to allergic reactions of laboratory animals that have been inoculated with this vaccine.

The reports that were presented resulted in a lively exchange of opinions. Particularly active discussions developed in connection with the report presented by Pshenichnov and his collaborators. The work of the conference was conducted on a high scientific and theoretical level.

Professor Krontovskaya, on one occasion, declared that one does not have the impression of being in far away Siberia but, on the contrary, has the illusion of participating in the activities of one of the scientific institutes located at a capital city.

The representative of the Ministry of Public Health RSFSR, Ye. A. Benderskaya, stated in her address that the conference has completely justified the expectations of the Ministry and that the conference has enabled its participants to communicate to others the results of their work, thus showing very great achievements of the Siberian scientific research institutions and of the workers connected with them in furthering the development and expansion of scientific research for the purpose of giving better service to the laboring people in accordance with the decisions of the party and of the government.

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